

Bread and Puppet Theater

THIS IS



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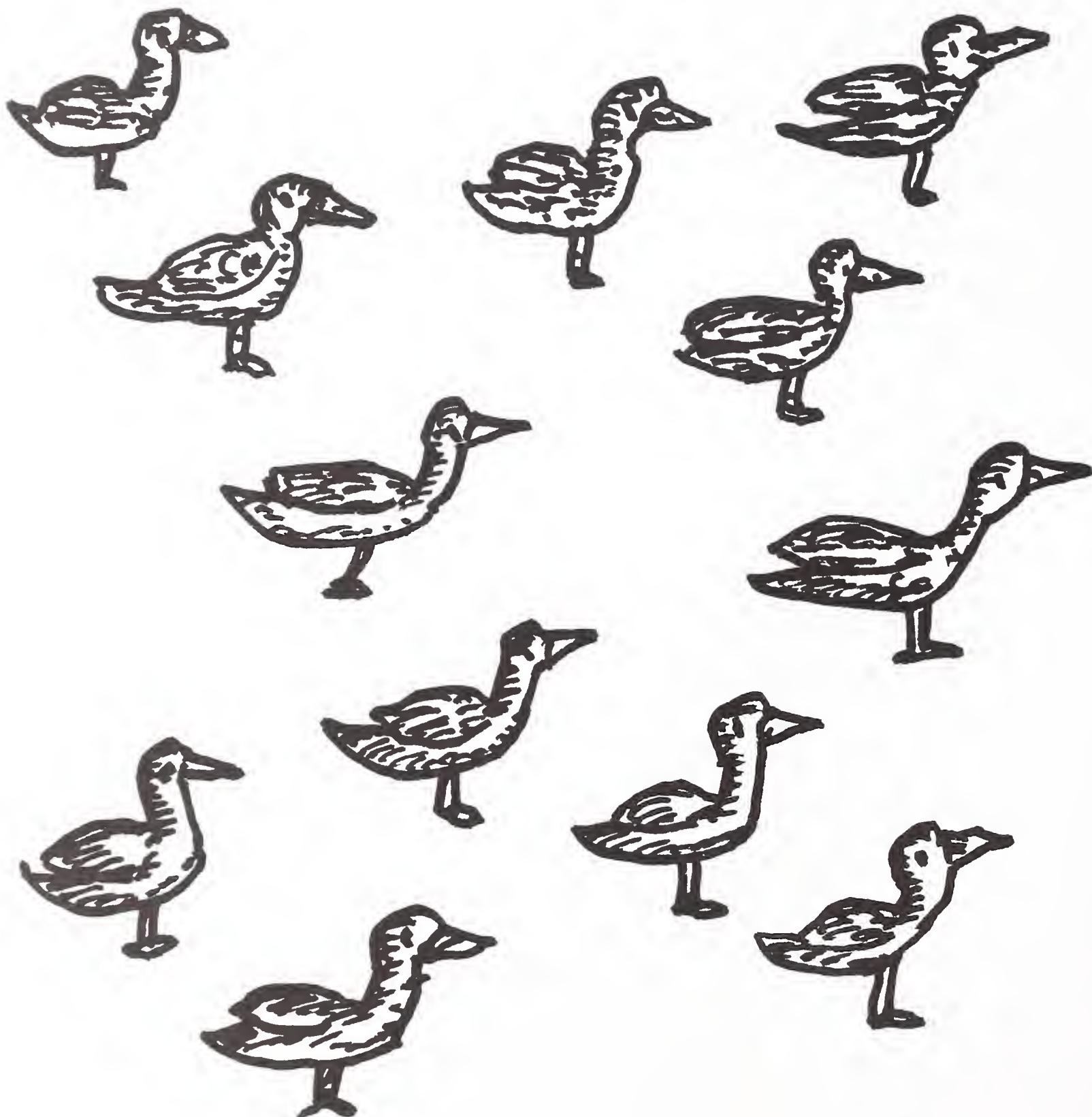
THIS IS



**a play written and illustrated by Peter Schumann
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*Woman At this moment
in history let us remember
the Cuban Missile
Crisis of 1962*



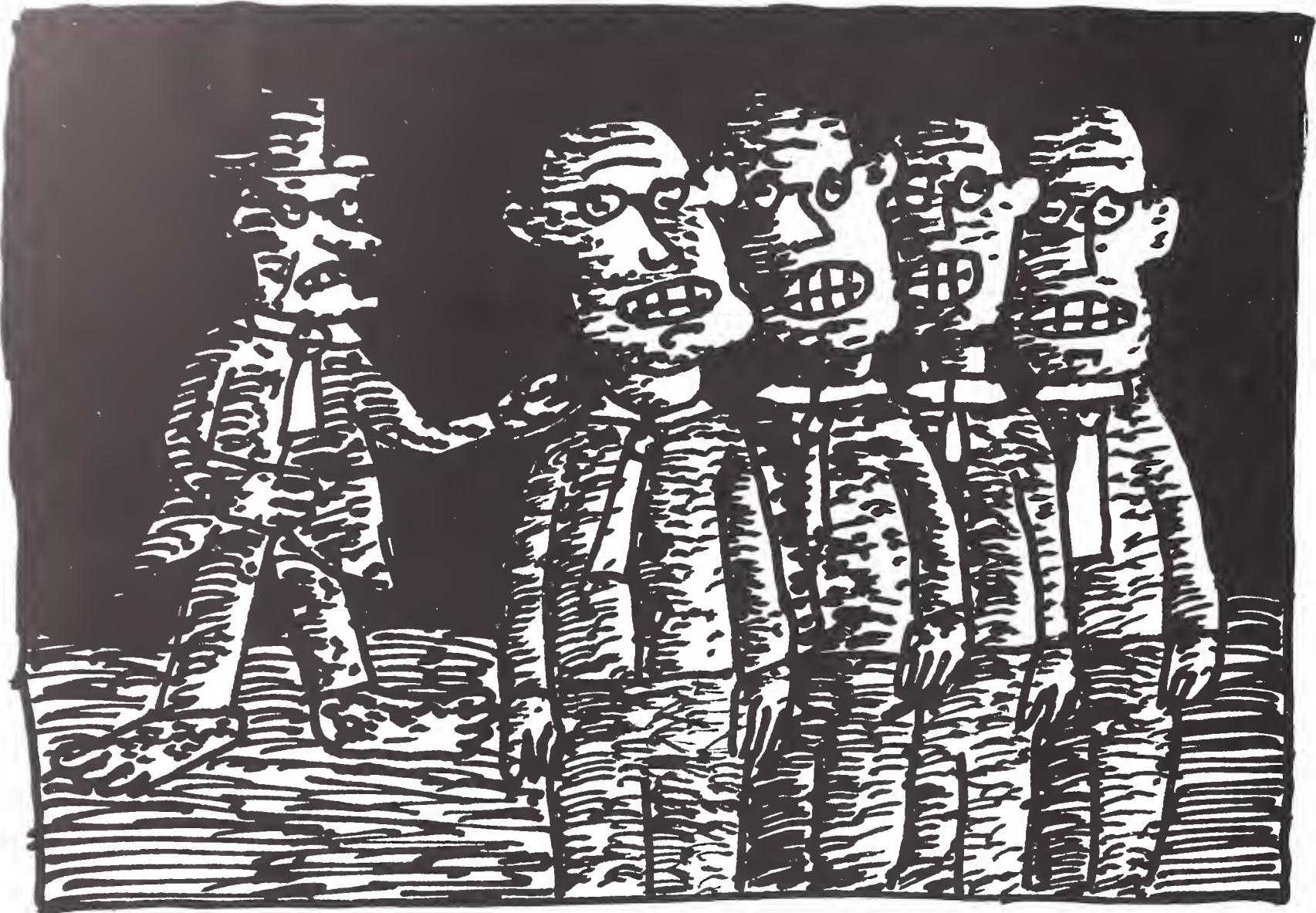


Scene 1 The people of America are asleep

Chorus sings **See!**

Man **Dark birds fly over their faces**

Scene 2



Trumpets Ah!

**Man Here are chief characters of the
World in 1962**

Trumpets Ta-ta!

Drum Boom! Boom!

**Man The President of the US, the Chief
of the CIA, the Secretary of Defense,
the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President
of the Enemies**

Trumpets Bravo!

Scene 3



Man The CIA informs the President
about evidence of a Soviet missile
base construction in Cuba

Woman Yes

President Ah!

Door Knock-knock

President Come in

CIA Thank you

President How are you how is your
wife how is your mother-in-law

how is your daughter how is everything how is your pupdog?

CIA I am fine my pupdog is fine my mother-in-law is fine my daughter is fine everything is fine

Man Now the information will be transferred from the mouth of the CIA to the ears of the President

President Silence

CIA Whisper

President Silence

CIA Whisper

President Silence

CIA Whisper

President Exclamation

CIA Silence

President Exclamation

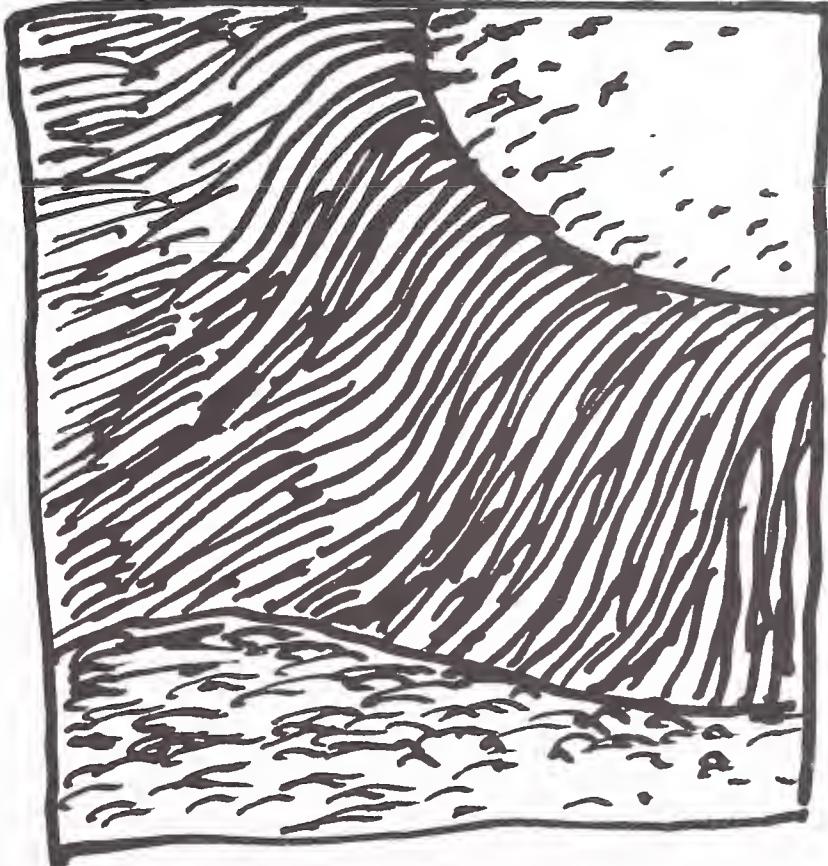
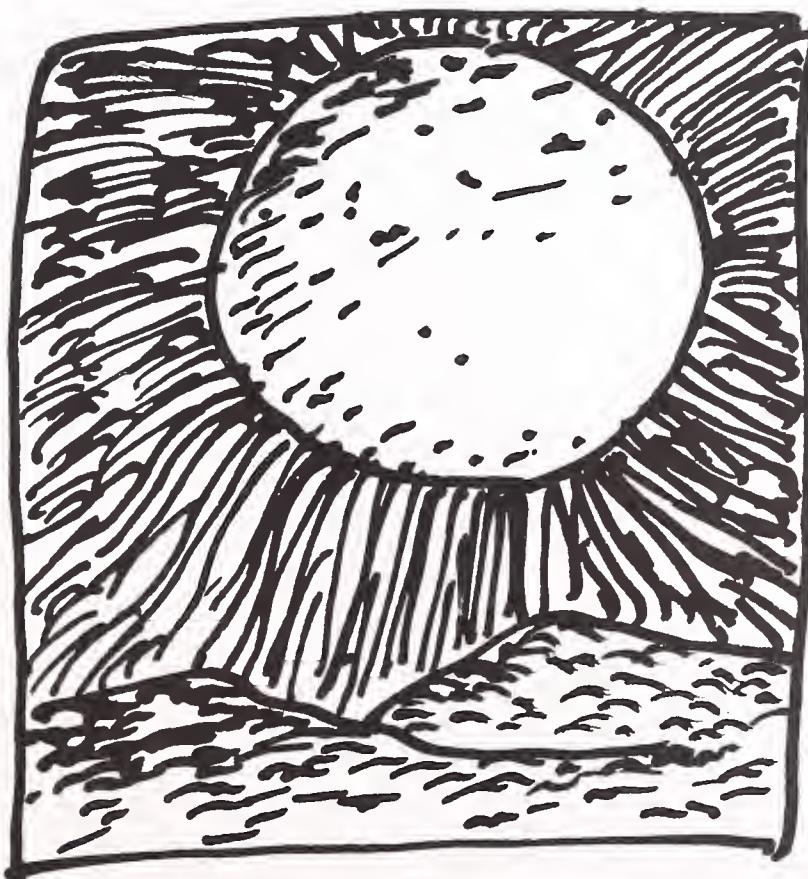
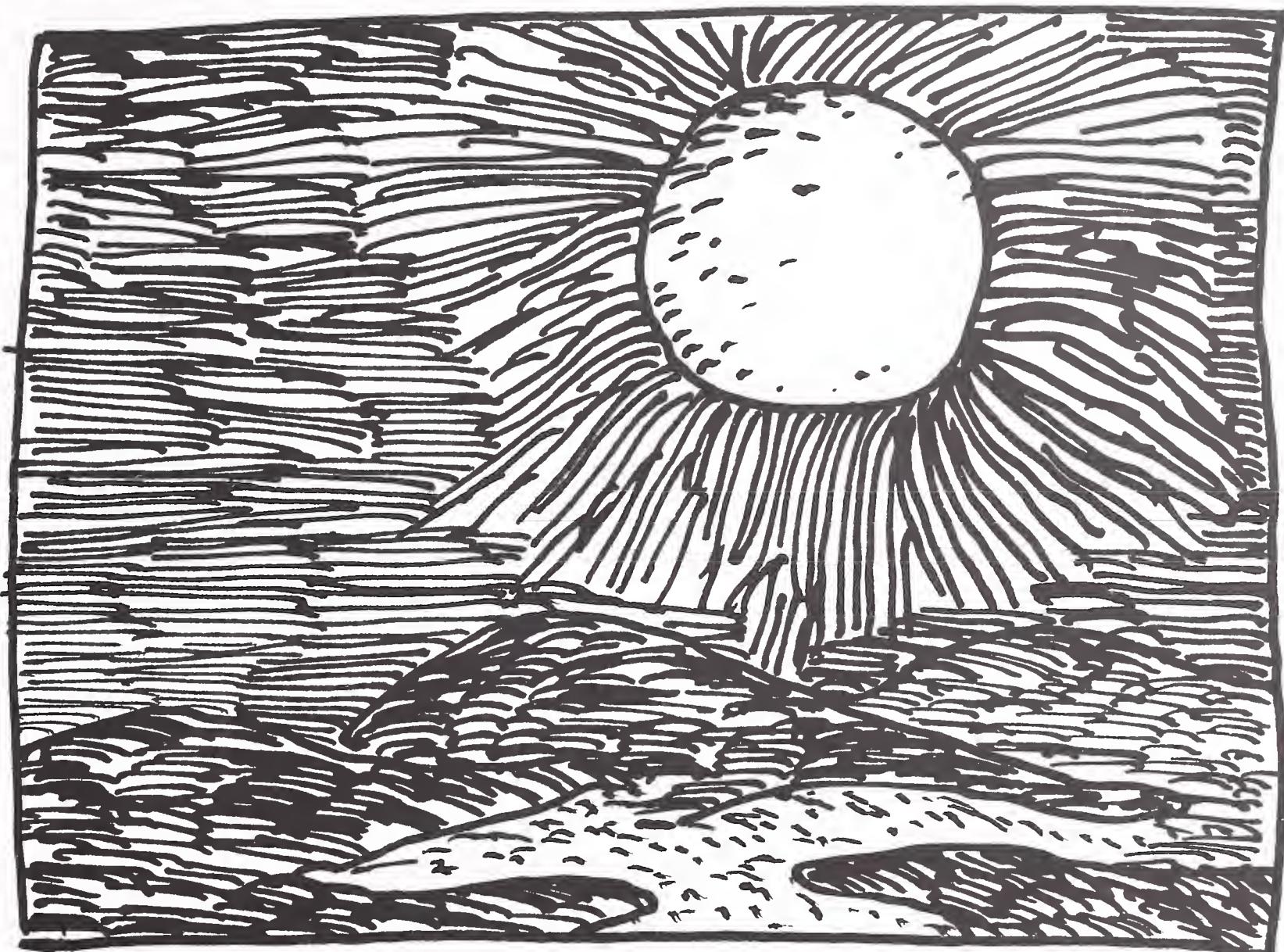
CIA Silence

President Exclamation

CIA Silence



Woman See the sun

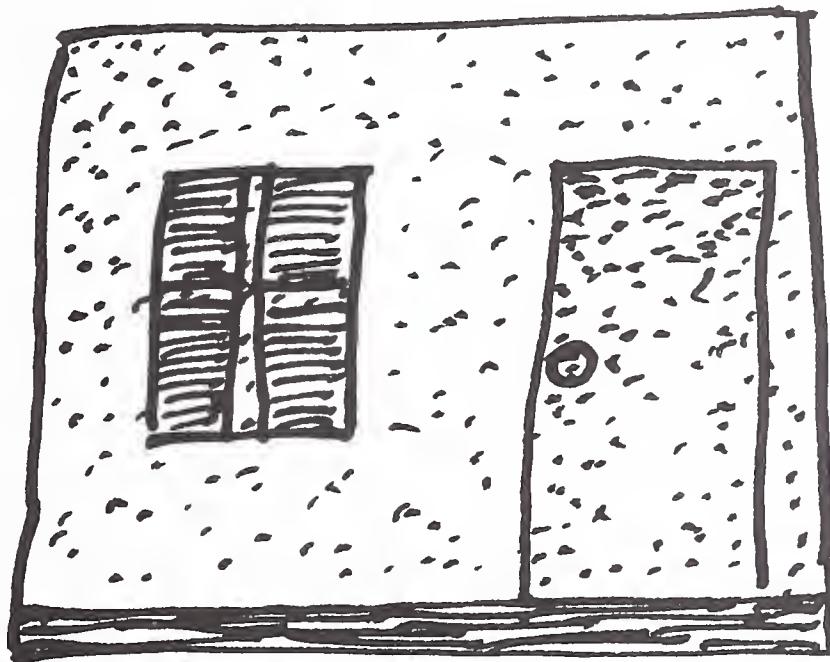


Scene 4 The people of America are asleep



Chorus Sings
Man Dark birds fly over their faces

Scene 5 The Cabinet Room at the White House



CIA No doubt about it

Drum Yes

Joint Chiefs of Staff Unanimous in calling for immediate military action

General Curtis Lemay I argue strongly that a military attack is essential

Dean Acheson Responsibility

Drum Boom

Dean Acheson Protect the security

Drum Boom

Dean Acheson United States

Drum Boom

Dean Acheson Whole free World

Drum Boom

Dean Acheson **Means destroying the missiles**

Joint Chiefs Airstrike

Fiddles Zee

Joint Chiefs **Airstrike airstrike airstrike**
airstrike airstrike airstrike airstrike
airstrike airstrike airstrike airstrike

Drum Boom boom boom

Joint Chiefs **Airstrike airstrike airstrike**
airstrike airstrike airstrike airstrike
airstrike

Fiddles Zee

Joint Chiefs **Airstrike airstrike airstrike**
airstrike airstrike airstrike

Chorus Sings

Drum Boom

Joint Chiefs **Airstrike against the missiles only course**

Chorus Sings

Man Only course

McNamara Perhaps

President Perhaps

McNamara That course of action would turn out to be inevitable but
President But

Chorus But

McNamara Let's not start with that
President Not /course

Chorus Not start

President Silence

Joint Chiefs Silence

McNamara Silence

Chorus Silence

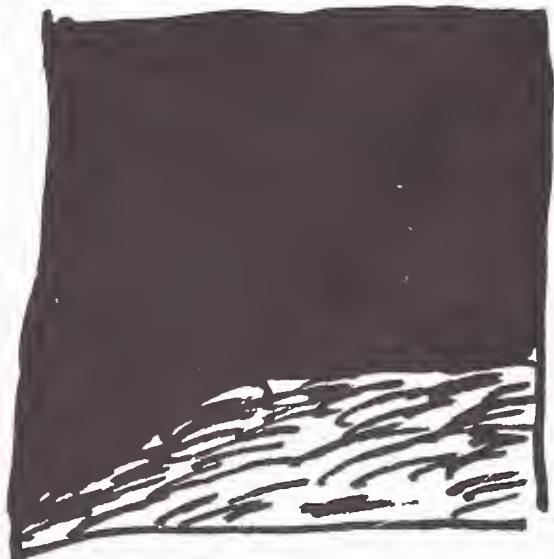
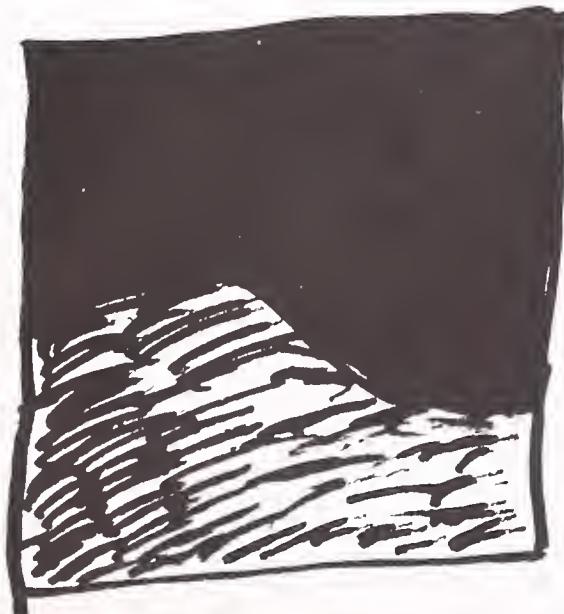
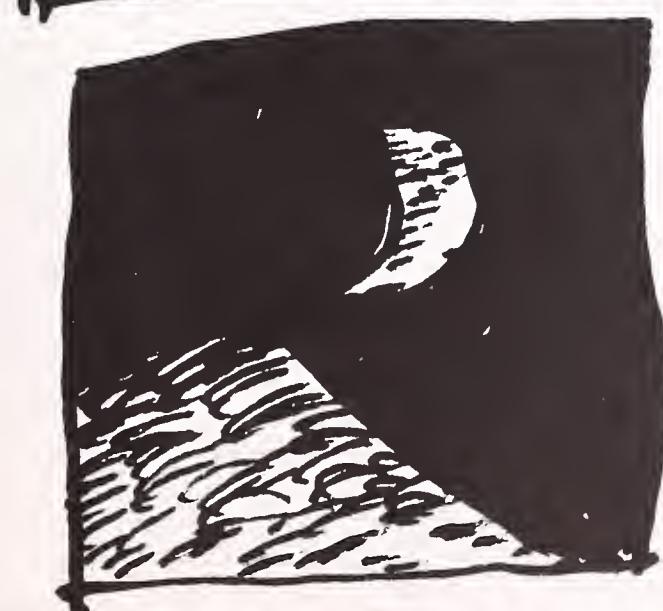
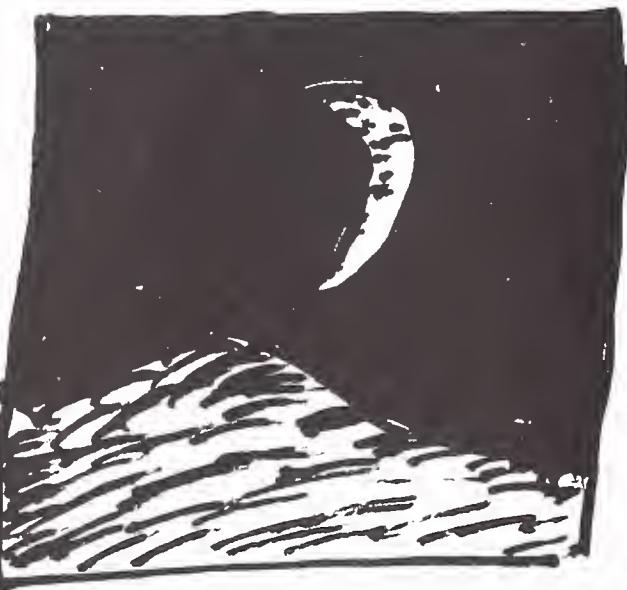
McNamara I argue that a blockade is limited pressure which can be increased as the circumstances warrant. It would be understood yet leave us in control of events

President The blockade is the initial
Joint Chiefs Initial step /step

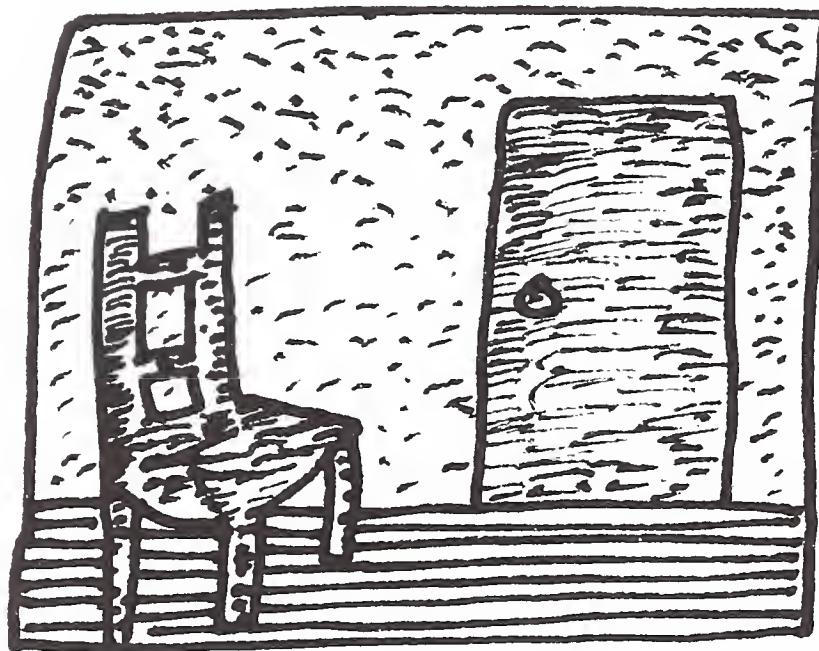
President I order the Pentagon to make all the preparations necessary for further military action



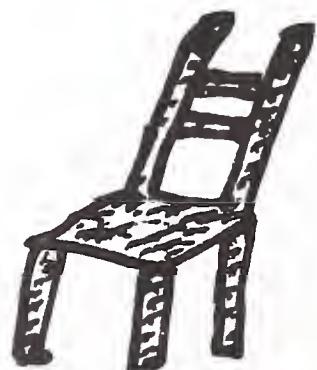




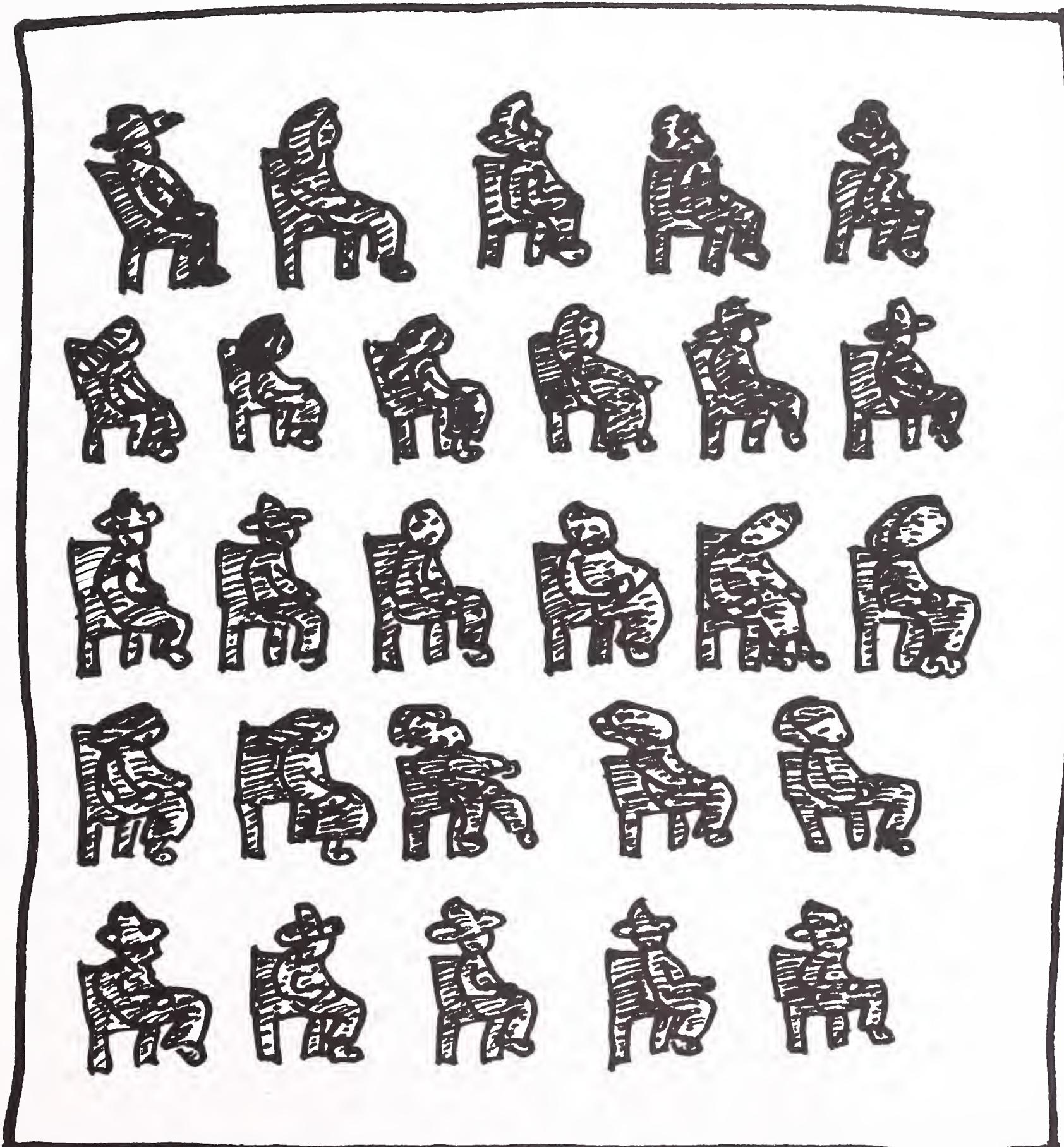
Scene 6 Empty cabinet room at The White House



*Chair **Sings**
Table **Sings**
Door **Ah**
Window **Sings**
All chairs **Sing***



Scene 7 The President's speech to the nation



President My fellow citizens this government as promised has maintained the closest surveillance of the Soviet military build-up on the island of Cuba. Within the past week unmistakable evidence has established the fact that a series of offensive missile sites is now in preparation on that impounded island. To halt this offensive build - up a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated



President This quarantine will be extended if needed to other types of cargo and carriers



President Should these offensive military preparations continue further action will be justified. I have directed the armed forces to prepare for any eventualities



President **We will not prematurely or unnecessarily risk the costs of worldwide nuclear war in which even the fruits of victory would be ashes in our mouth**



President **But neither will we shrink from that risk at any time it must be faced**



Man The Organisation of American
States unanimously supported the
recommendation for a quarantine
General de Gaulle It is exactly what I
would have done

Macmillan Complete support for the
President at every stage

Chancellor Adenauer Support

Woman Yes



Woman The navy deployed 180 ships into the Caribbean. The B-52 bomber force was ordered into the air fully loaded with atomic weapons. As one came down to land another immediately took its place in the air. The Strategic AirCommand was dispersed to civilian landing fields around the country to lessen its vulnerability in case of attack. 250,000 men 2000 air sorties against the various targets in Cuba 90,000 marines and airborne in the invasion force



Man The thought that disturbed the President the most and that made the prospect of war much more fearful than it would otherwise have been was the specter of the death of the children of this country and all the world the young people who had no role who had no say who knew nothing even of the confrontation but whose lives would be snuffed out like everyone else's.



Scene 8



Man **The people of America
are asleep**

Woman **Dark birds fly over
their faces**

Scene 9

Intercom **The Soviet Ambassador is**
Attorney General Good /here sir
Drum Boom
Attorney General We
Drum Boom
Attorney General Have to have a com-
Drum Boom /mitment
Attorney General By tomorrow
Drum Boom
Attorney General That those bases will
be removed
Drum Boom boom boom
Attorney General I am not giving you
an ultimatum
Drum Boom
Attorney General But
Drum Boom
Attorney General I am giving you an
ultimatum
Drum Boom boom boom
Attorney General You should understand

Drum Boom

*Attorney General That if you do not
remove those bases*

Drum Boom

*Attorney General **We will remove them***

*Chorus **We***

*Attorney General **We will remove them***

*Chorus **We***

*Chair **Shakes***

*Window **Shakes***

*Desk **Shakes***

*Drum **Solo***

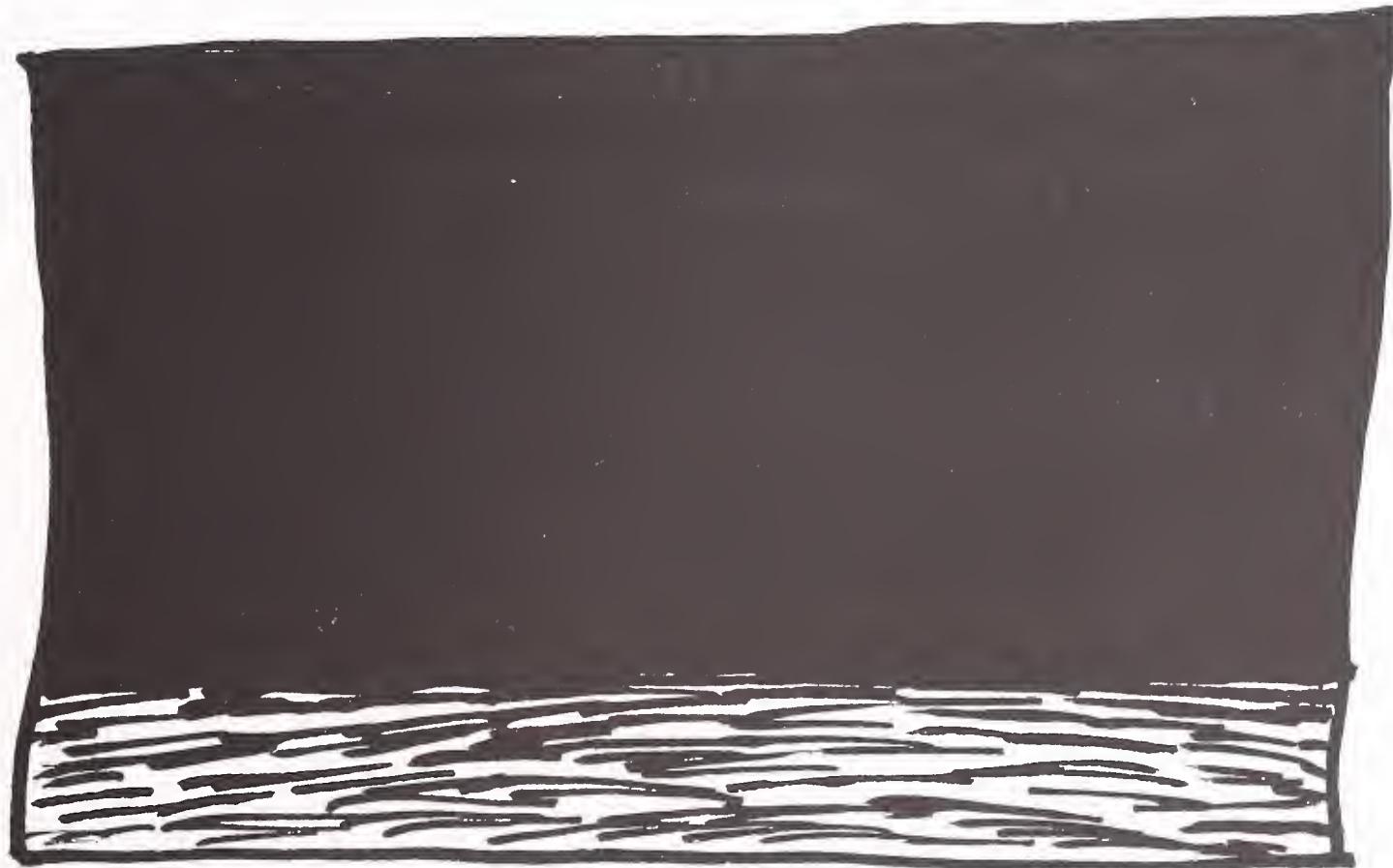
*Chorus **Sings***



Scene 10

Empty room **The President was not optimistic. He ordered 24 troop-carrier squadrons of the Air Force Reserve to active duty. They would be necessary for an invasion. He had not abandoned hope. It was hope not an expectation. The expectation was a military confrontation by tuesday and possibly tomorrow**

Evening No



Scene 11

The World **Cities ships houses doors schools kids kitchens old people offices trucks palaces bicycles crowds subways cats geraniums bakeries gymanasiums hotels little people secretaries cardrivers students relatives kings poets waitresses babies**

Wind Sings

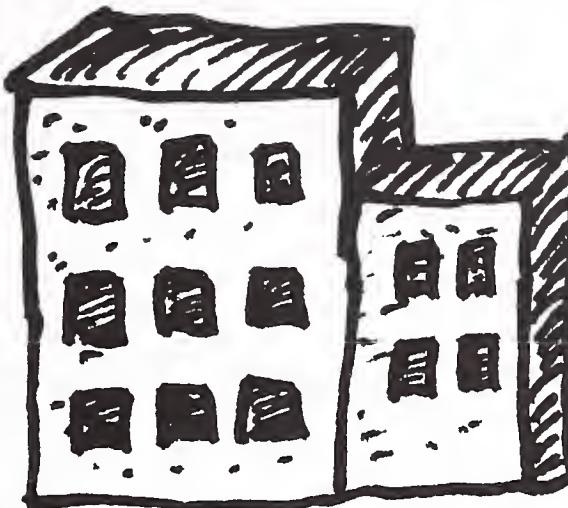
The World **Bluejays pinetrees starlings butterflies clouds rivers thunderstorms sunflowers potatofields birch forests beaches fires rocks valleys horses geese tigers**

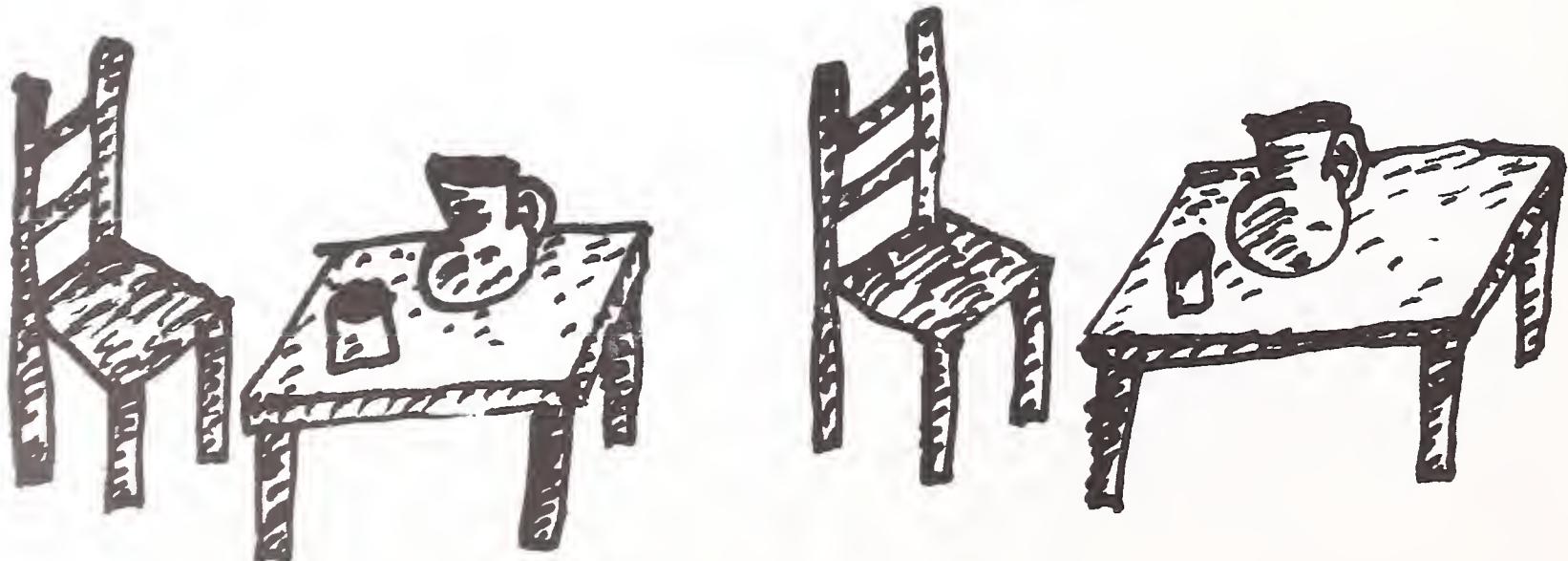
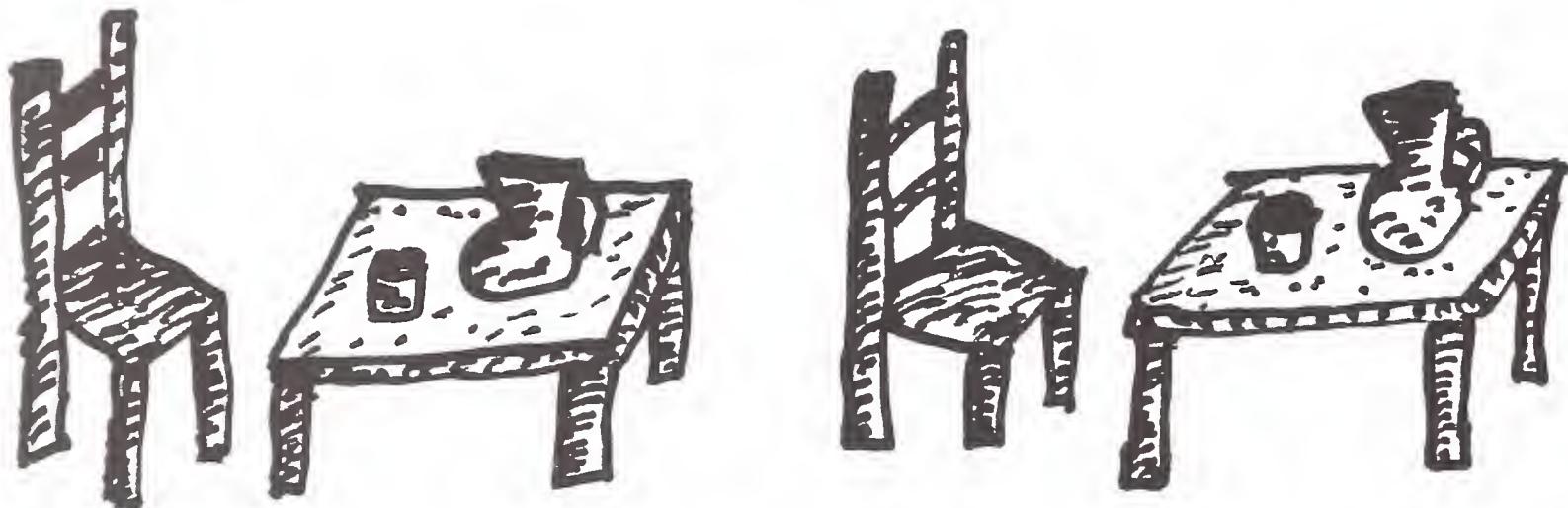
Wind Sings

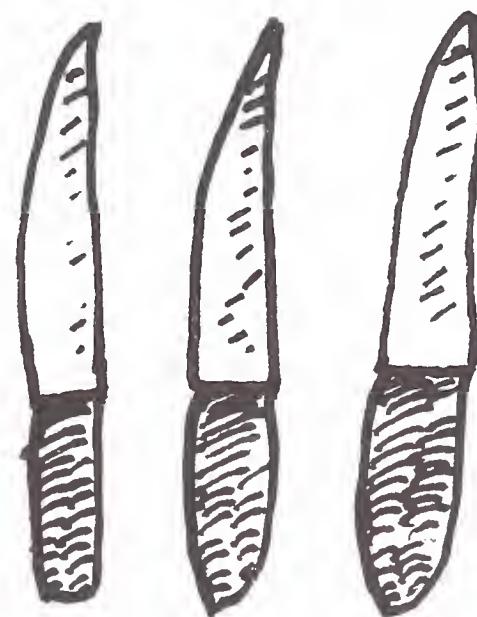
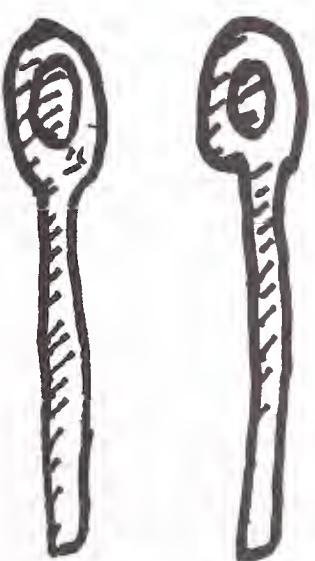
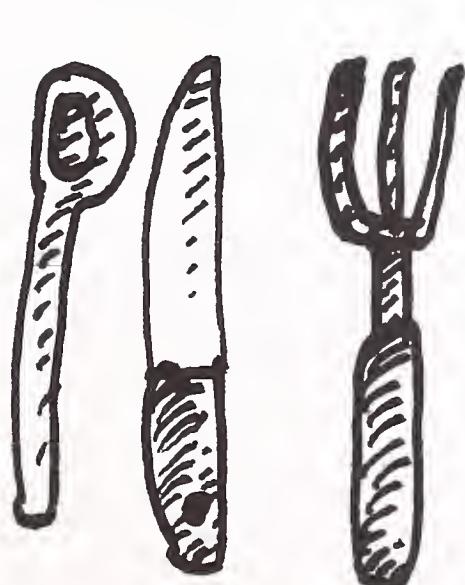
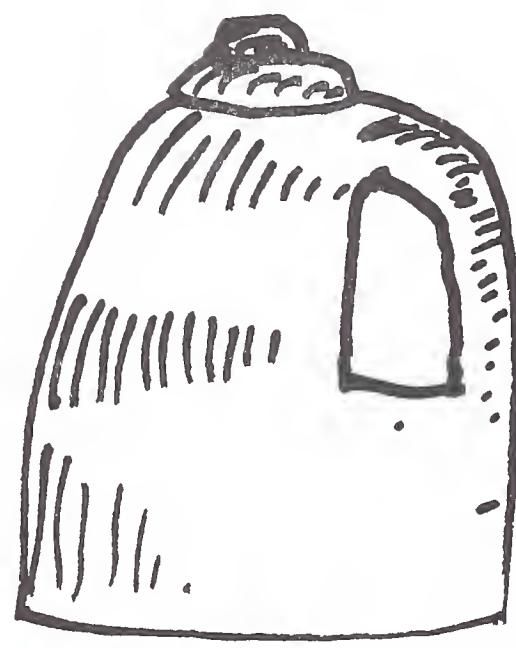
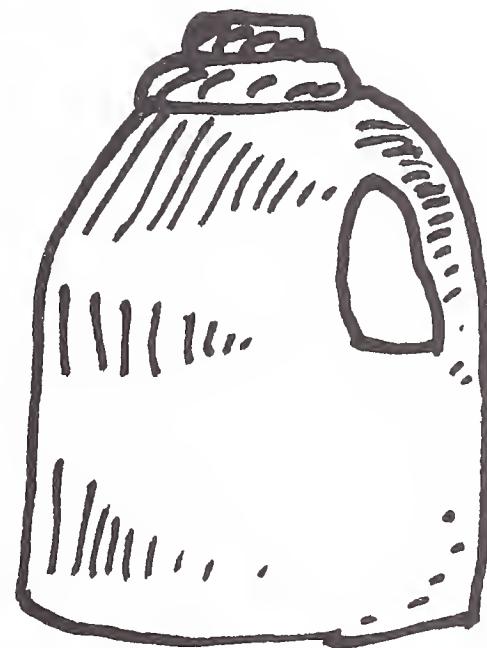
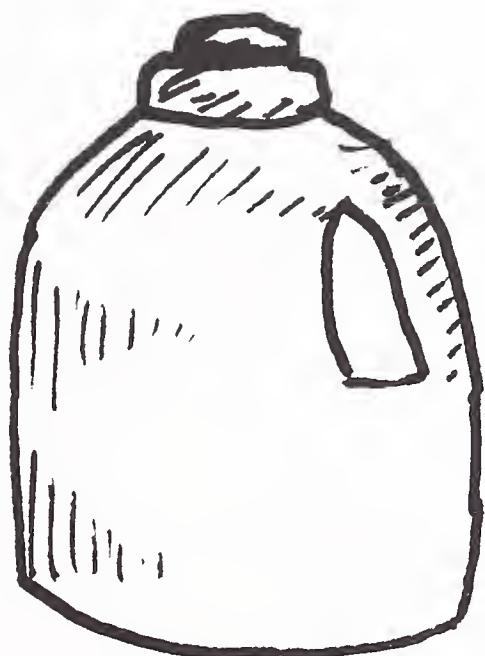
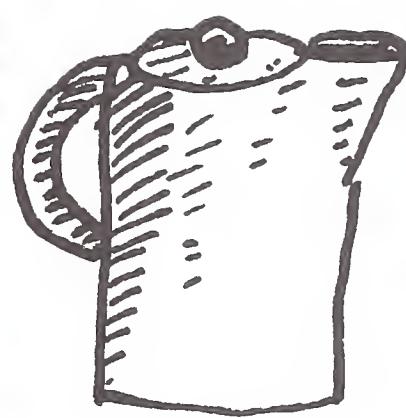
Snow Sings

Rain Sings

Cymbals **Wake up everybody! Wake up! Wake up! Wake up! Wake up!**

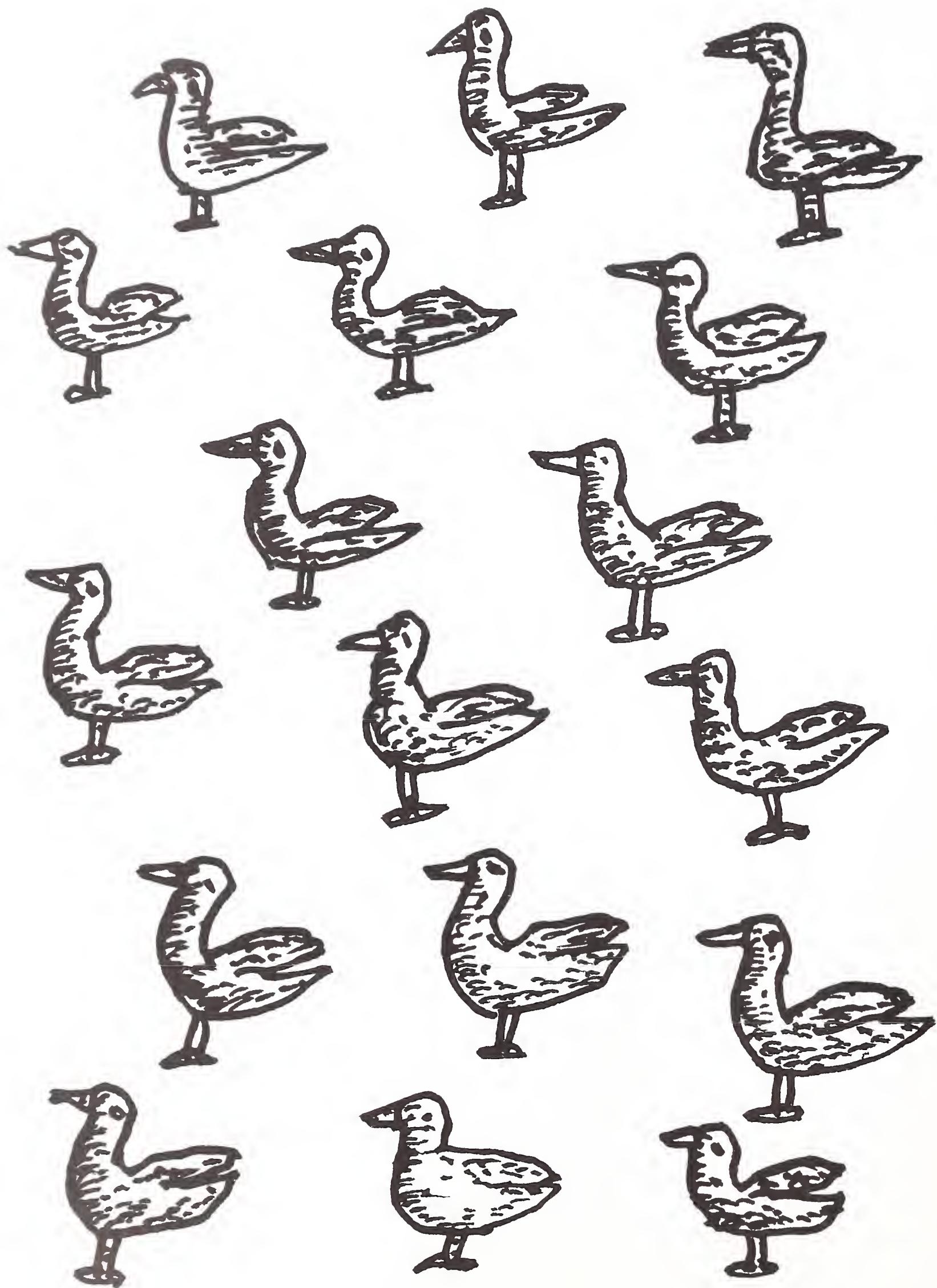


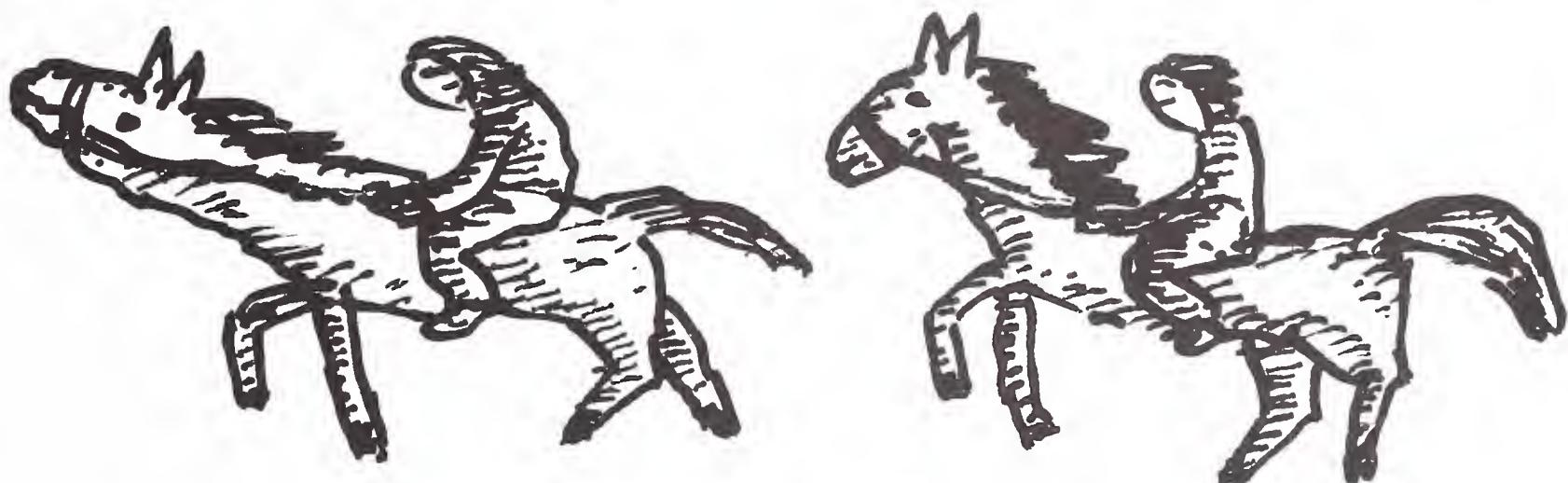
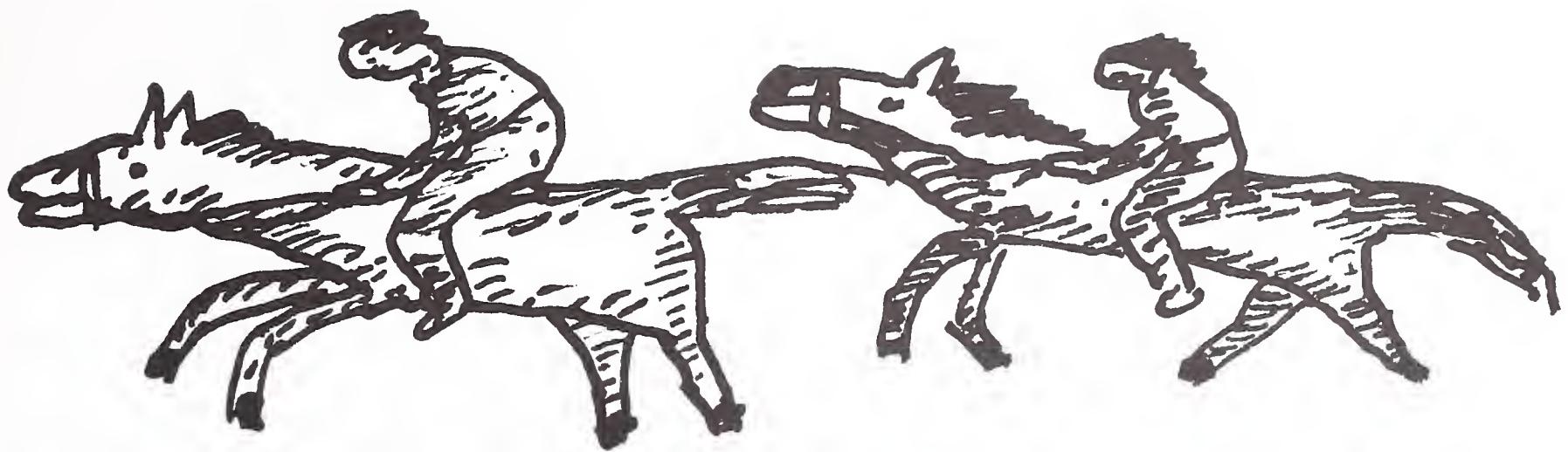


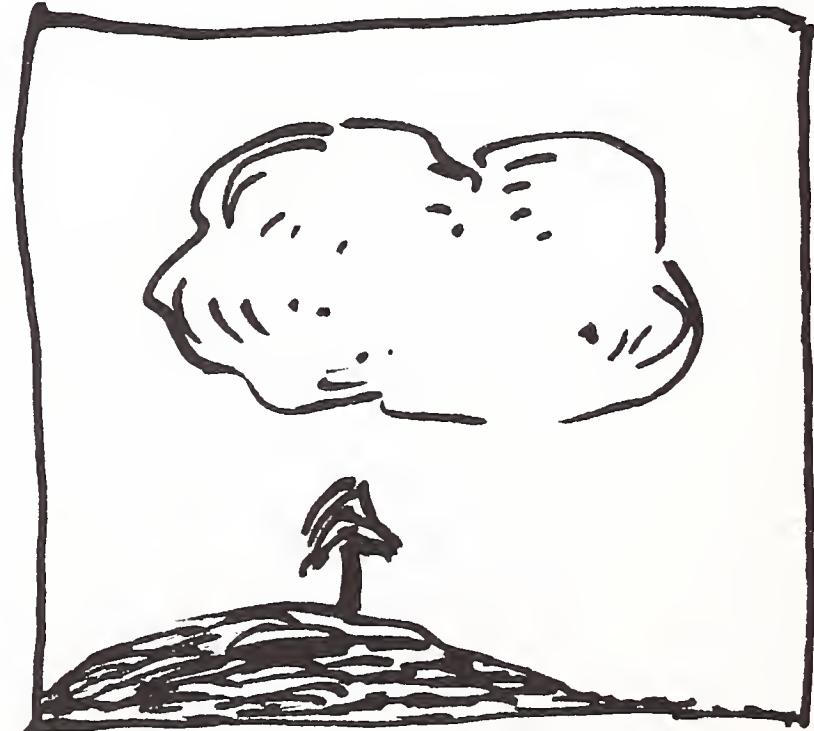
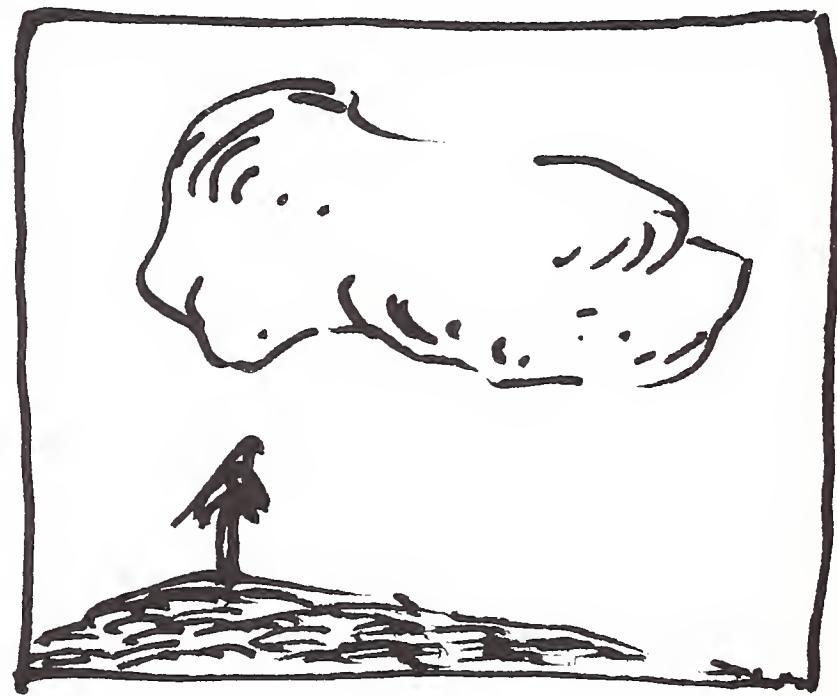
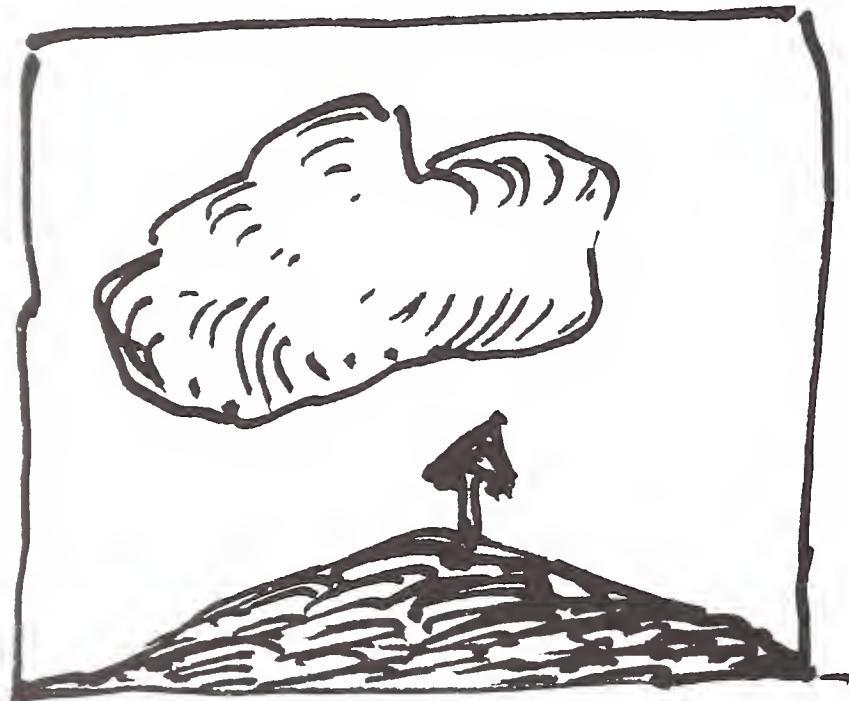
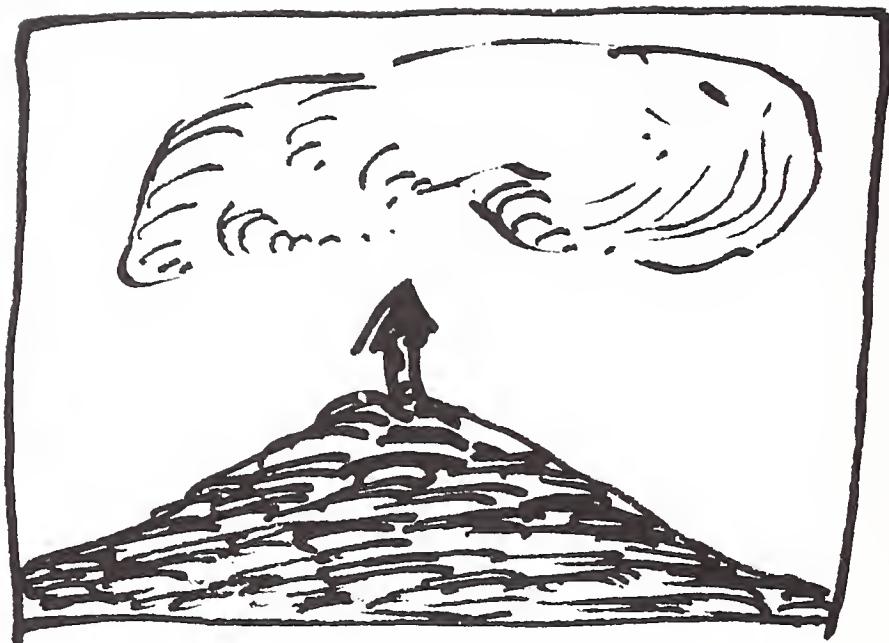
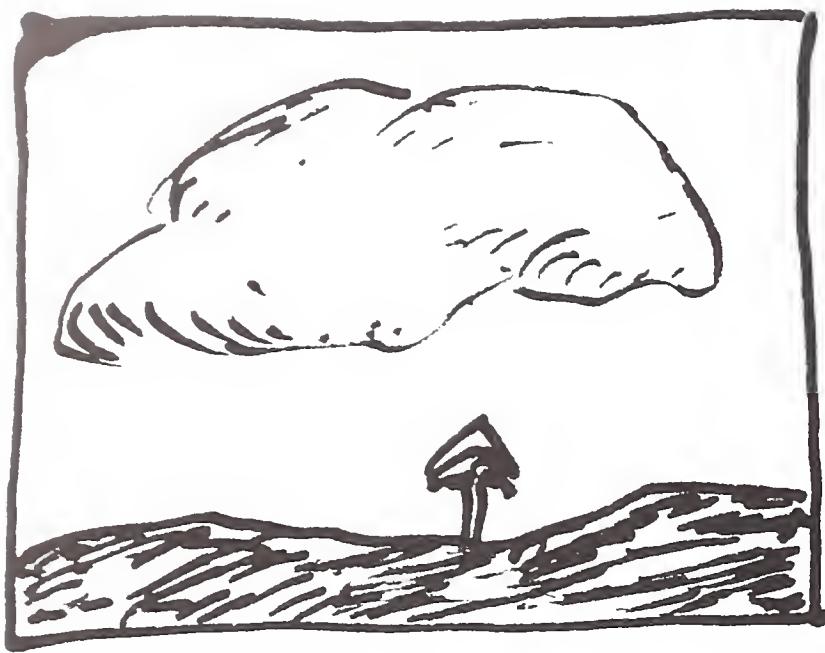


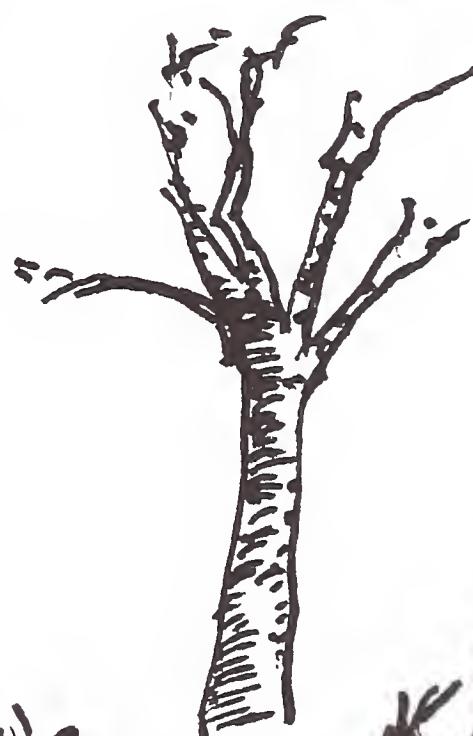
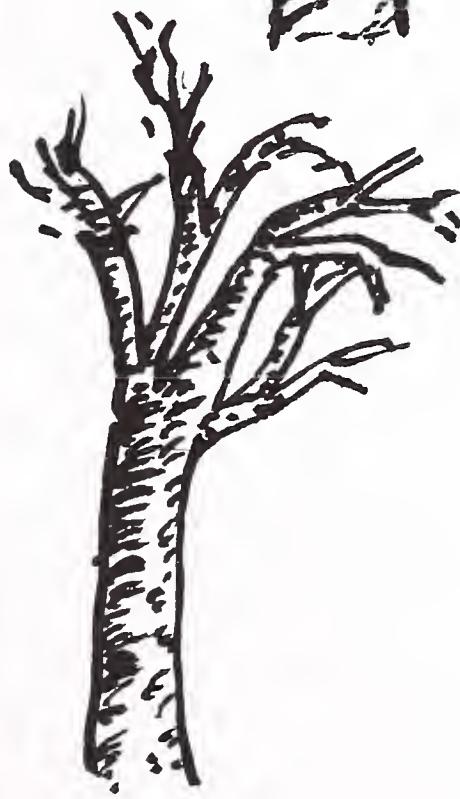
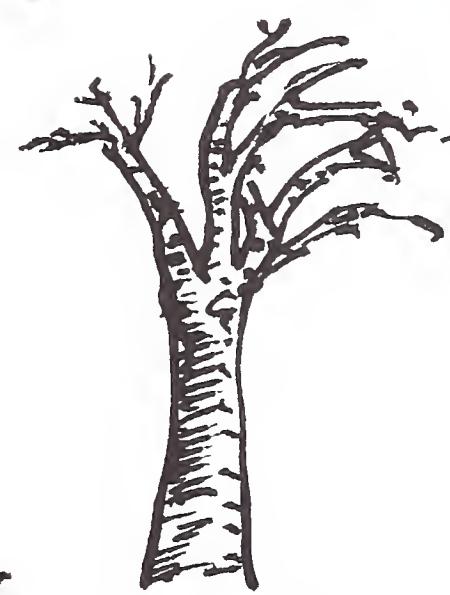
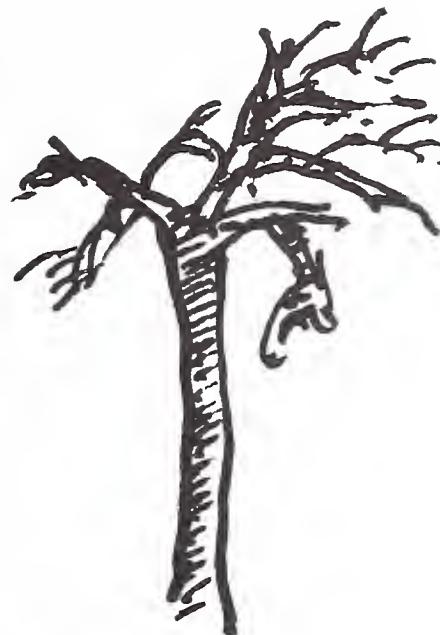


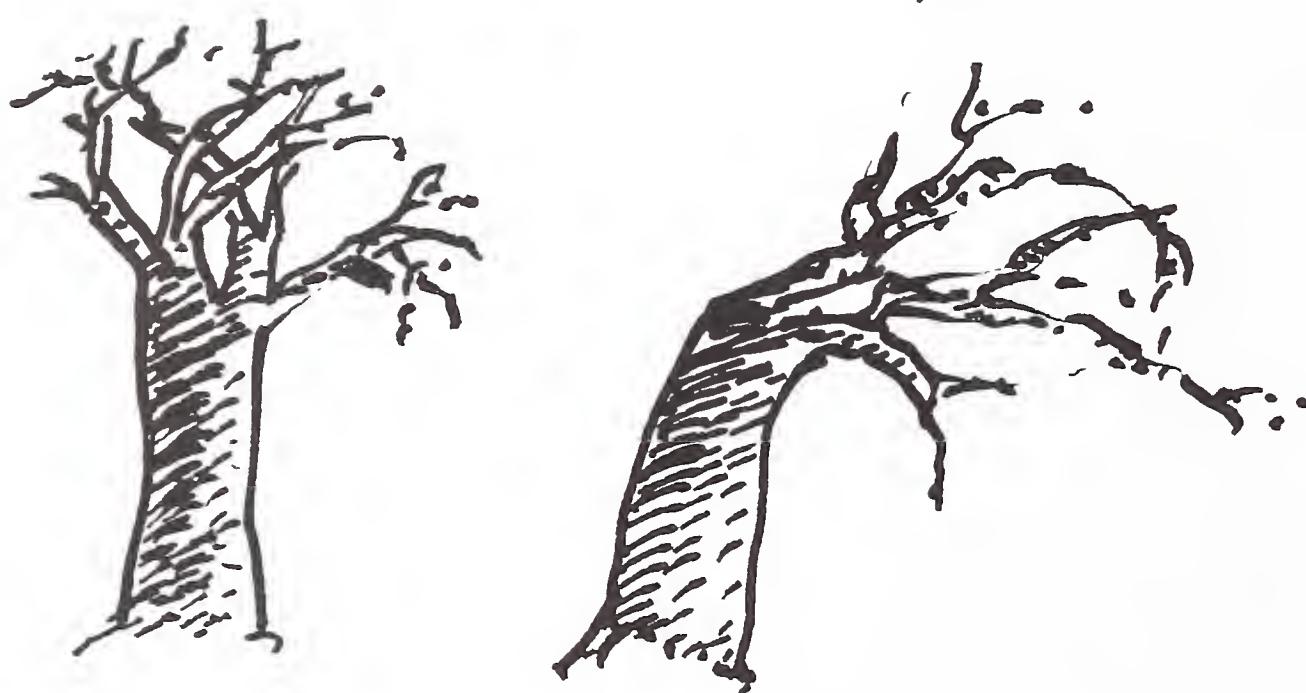
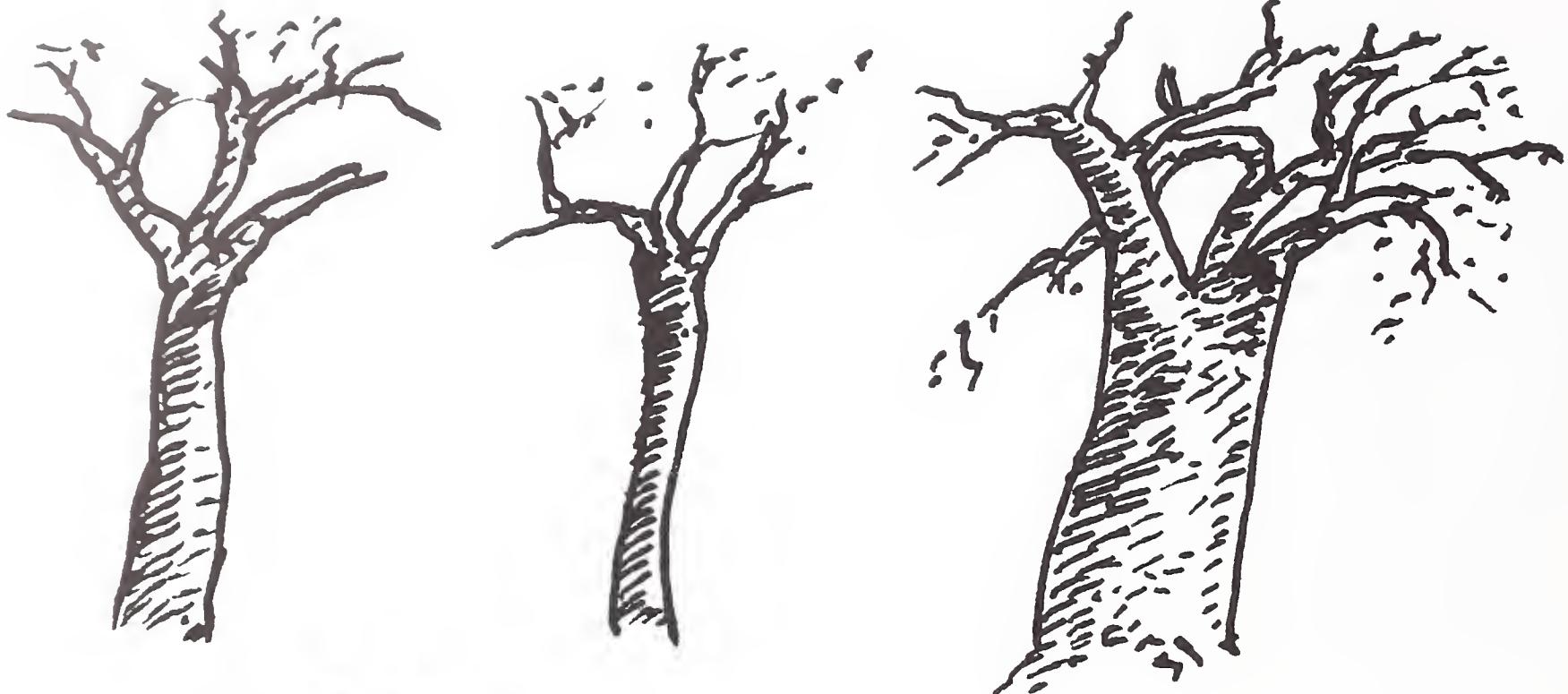




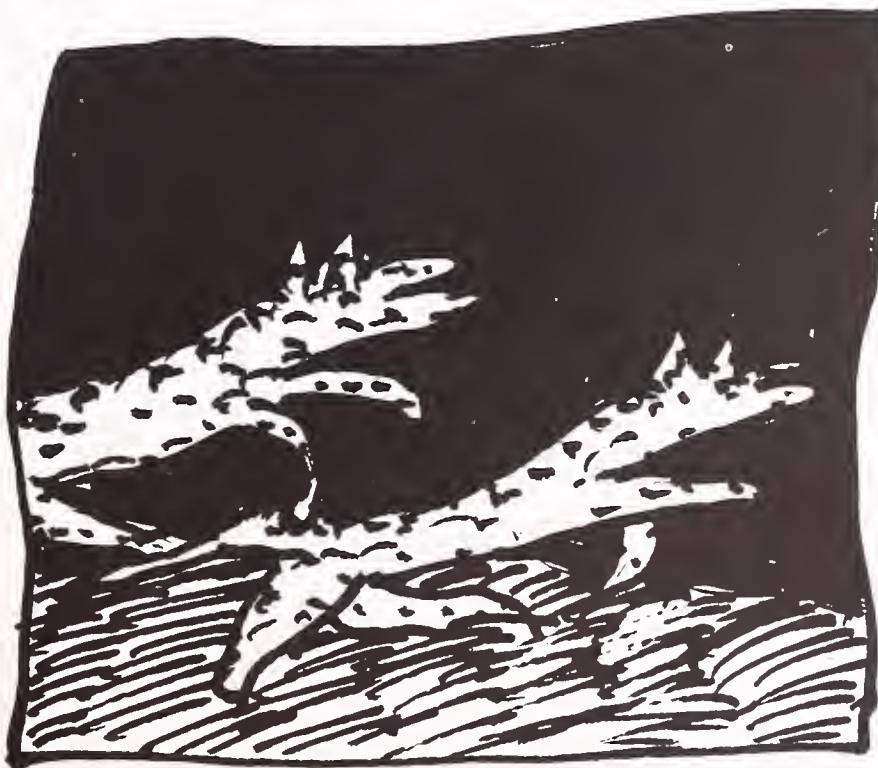
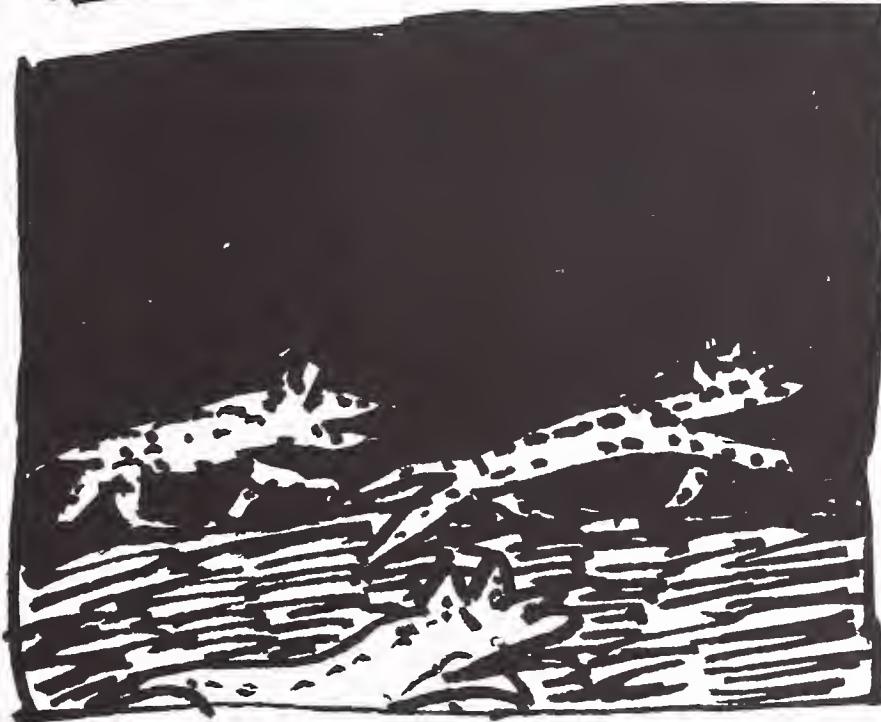






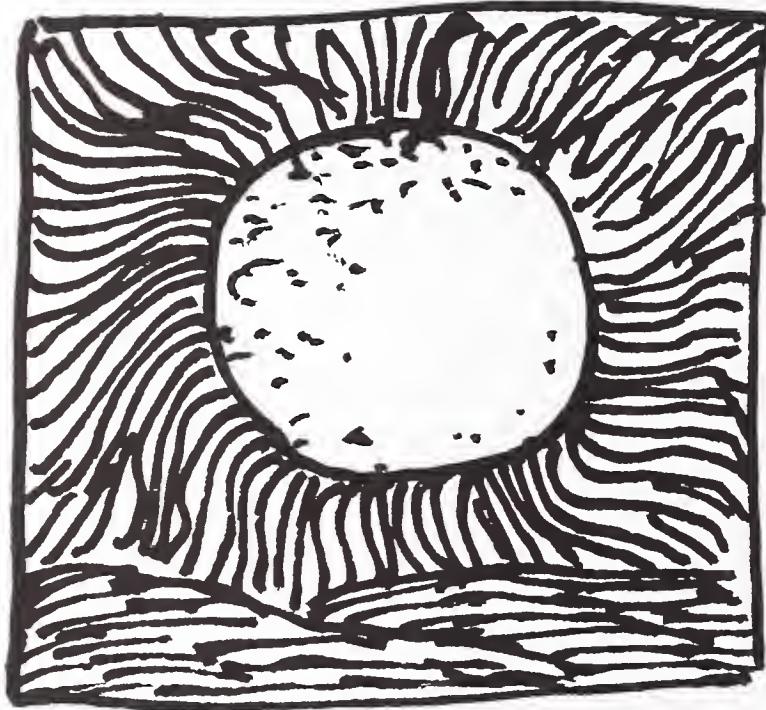


Darkness Oh!



Bread and Puppet

Glover Vermont



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